

OPINION

Do you have what it takes?

Halton police need new recruits to serve and protect

It can't be easy being a cop — especially since our population continues to grow in leaps and bounds without the necessary services in place to sustain the growth.

Of course residents expect (demand?) the same level of police service they have been enjoying over the years. That service can mean anything from responding to traffic accidents to diffusing a tense domestic situation to comforting a lost child to breaking the news that a loved one won't be coming home again.

A police officer's job — or calling — demands that the individual be a caring but strong soul, a marriage counsellor, child care advocate, teacher, social worker and, when required, a midwife. Somehow the policeman or woman is expected to be all of that often with little appreciation from the community they serve.

But for most of the police officers who make it their life's quest to improve the lives of others and the safety of towns and cities in which they work, they wouldn't want to change their profession. They love the job and embrace all of its daily challenges.

Their enthusiasm for policing is readily apparent in the new recruitment campaign being promoted by the Halton Regional Police Service.

"Variety is the spice of life, so policing is very challenging and rewarding — plus you can really help people," says Media Relations Officer Sgt. Peter Payne. "You can look in the mirror and tell yourself you made a difference. If you're dedicated to helping people, this is the job for you."

Halton police are currently looking to draw from a large pool of applicants and want to encourage local residents to consider a career in policing.

If you have what it takes to serve and protect the people of Halton, you might want to check out www.hrps.on.ca or call the recruitment information line at (905) 634-1831, ext. 5116.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltoned@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Community fund aids our youth

DEAR EDITOR:

Great volunteer opportunities, fun social skills groups and an overall positive influence in a child's life.

Those are all things the Youth Aiding Youth program has been able to offer the community of Milton thanks largely to the help of a very generous sponsor.

Those with the Milton Community Fund have helped our program to make a difference in the community

through their financial support. About a year ago they generously decided to financially support the program by giving us more than \$20,000.

Those with the Milton Community Fund understand the need — and the importance — of this program in our community. Without their financial support, Youth Aiding Youth wouldn't have been able to make such great gains in the Milton community.

• see SUPPORT on page A7

Upfront

Overcrowding at our humane society truly heartbreaking

It's hard to decide what's sadder, the situation itself or the reasons behind it.

What's clear is that a visit to the Oakville and District Humane Society these days will be downright heartbreaking for any cat lover.

Simply put, it's like a feline refuge camp — with cages occupying literally every available spot, including two in executive director Johanne Golder's office and one in the staff washroom. The shelter, which covers Milton as well as Oakville, is never at a shortage of cats this time of year. However, this summer's overcrowding is at a truly frightening level, with roughly 200 cats in their care.

Part of the reason for this, Golder explained, is that many Miltonians still don't realize that their community falls within the Oakville shelter's jurisdiction — and therefore don't go looking there for lost pets.

Unfortunately, that's just one of many con-

tributing factors to the annual cat surge.

Perhaps the saddest of these is the short-lived commitment many people have to finding their runaway kitties. Often deemed disposable — at least compared to dogs — these lost cats are quickly replaced in many cases and, subsequently, left homeless when they do finally show up at a place like the humane society.

Then there's the people who give up their cats due to a move or some other type of life change.

Okay, that's understandable, but as Golder points out, most of these situations seem to happen in the spring and summer and many people often drop off their cats at the last minute — leaving the humane society further flooded with furry little residents.

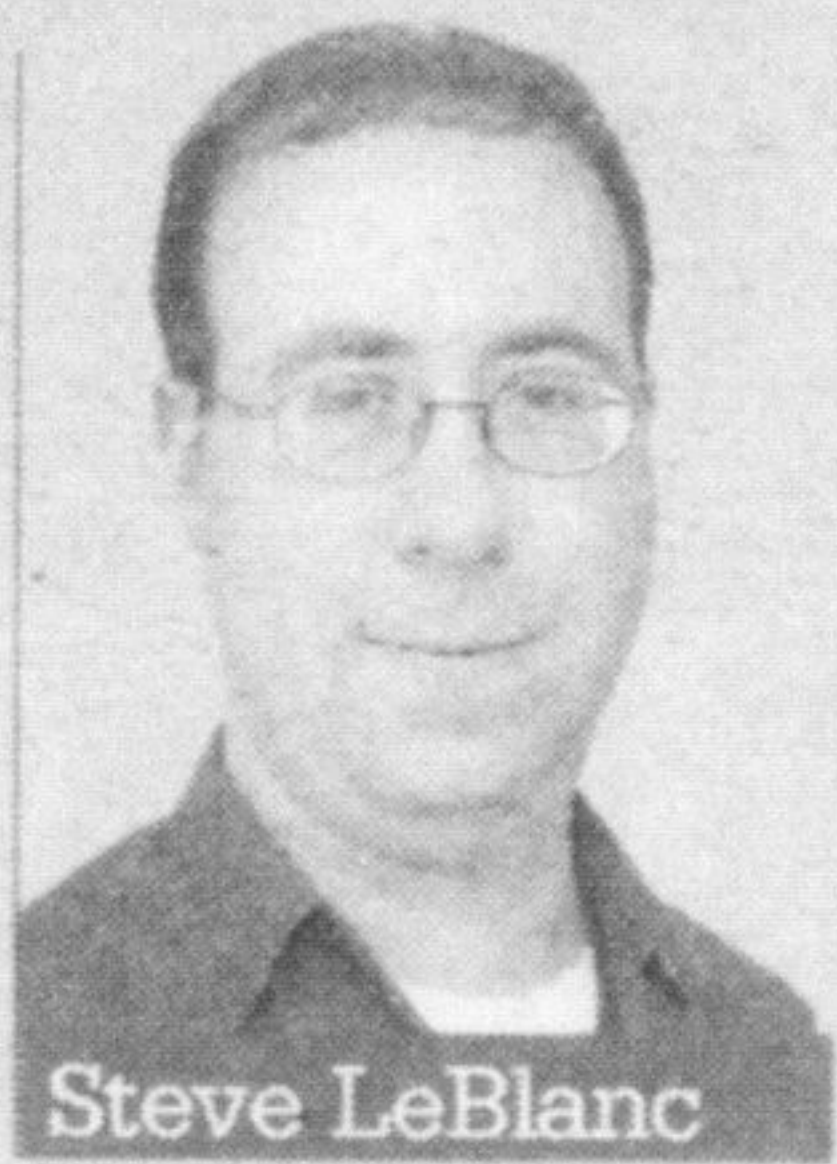
The fact that most people just don't seem

to adopt cats in summer — figuring they'd rather be outside enjoying the warm weather than inside caring for a new pet — certainly contributes to the overflow.

And of course part of the problem lies in the fact that many people still aren't getting their cats fixed — something I'd consider ethically criminal, given the overpopulation in most communities.

The sad reality is that cats just don't rate anywhere near as high as dogs on the pet pecking order. Our emotional attachment to a pet seems to be tied to our financial investment in it.

Let's see what we can do about changing this troubling trend. If you're not willing to go and adopt a cat at our humane society, please at least try not to add to their overcrowding.



Steve LeBlanc

The Canadian Champion
Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

875 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 3Z3

905-878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943
Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364
Classified: 905-875-3300
Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

Publisher: Ian Oliver

Associate Publisher
Neil Oliver

Advertising Director
Wendy McNab

Managing Editor
Karen Miceli

Production Manager
Tim Coles

Circulation Manager
Charlene Hall

Office Manager
Teri Casas

The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 875 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 3Z3, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. community newspapers.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

CCAB Audited

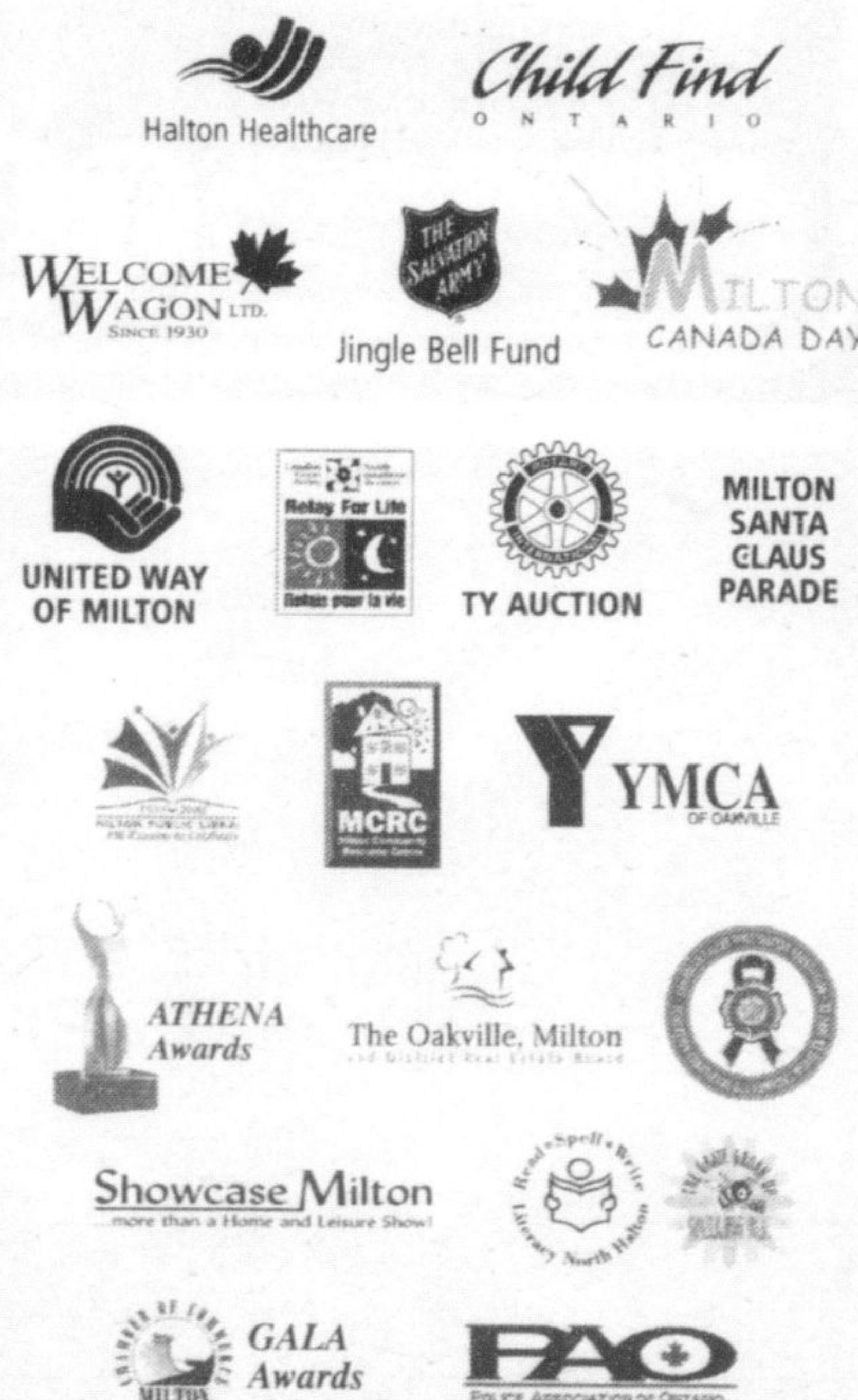
Recognized for excellence by

OCNA Ontario Community Newspapers Association

CNA Canadian Community Newspapers Association

SNPA Suburban Newspapers of America

The Canadian Champion is a proud media sponsor for:



The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product